

**Robert C. Nicholas to George Washington, August 18, 1756, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.**

**FROM ROBERT CARTER NICHOLAS, ESQ.**

WILLIAMSBURG 18th. Augt. 1756

DEAR SIR.

Our Committee has been engaged for two Days in considering the several Accounts In your Letter, which were laid before us, & I think have redressed every Grievance which Prudence & our Authority as a Committee would allow of; As to your own particular Case, we have thought fit to refer the Consideration of that to another Time, for the Reasons that our Chairman, from whom they will come more properly than myself, will give you, & which I hope will be satisfactory.<sup>1</sup> This will be deliver'd to you by Mr Butts Roberts an unfortunate young Man, who is sent up to your Regiment for not appearing at the Draught of Yk County; he is born of very reputable Parents & his Father is a Man of no inconsiderable Fortune; The young Man some Years since being desirous to study the Law, at the Request of his Father I took him under my Tuition; he continued with me upwards of a Year & by his extraordinary Application made a surprising Progress in his reading & his Behaviour was so commendable that I thought it entituled him to a great Share of my Esteem; I believe the young Man would gladly have continued his Studys under me, but for some Reasons his Father upon marrying a second Wife thought fit to remove him into the Country; where by being, I believe, too much neglected he has not employ'd his Time to so good Advantage as he formerly had done with me. It seems from the Account he and

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another Man gives me, that at the Time the Act for draughting the Counties was upon the Anvil, which he knew of, but before it passed, he went to Maryland upon some Business & did not return 'till the Draught was over; but as he was a single Man upon the Muster Roll & did not appear at the Day appointed, he was of Course deem'd an inlisted Soldier, & has been accordingly taken up & will be sent by the several Constables; I believe every one of the Officers are concern'd for the young Man, but think it their Duty to comply with the Law. If the Young Man did know before he went to Maryland that such a Law had pass'd, I think it was highly imprudent in him to do so; but at the same Time I'm persuaded that it was owing to his Father & not his own choice: but since it is his Misfortune to be sent to the Army I must intreat your Favour towards him, so far as may be consistent with your Rules & Regulations; if it would suit you to employ him as an under Clerk, I daresay he would give you great Satisfaction, as he did me; he writes a good Hand a pretty good Style, & is pretty accurate in his spelling, & I dare say to make the Time pass as agreeably as possible to himself he will be content with small Wages. I do assure you, Sir, as his Father is so Backward in assisting him, tho' I'm convinced he had been a very dutifull Son, out of Compassion & Regard to the Young Man I would cheerfully advance the ten Pounds, which has excused so many,<sup>2</sup> if that would procure his discharge. I have been desired to go with him to the Governour, but I have no Interest there & never intend to have any: tho' to serve a poor Man in Distress, if I thought it would avail, I would nerve my Face for once; but His Honr. upon a somewhat similar Occasion having declared that he will not interfere with the Law, I am discouraged from the Attempt. My best Wishes attend you being Dr. Sir,

Yr. affte. hble Servt. ROBT. CARTER NICHOLAS. You see the Hurry I'm in, therefore hope you'll excuse this Scrawl.

1 Washington had written a long letter on August 5th to Speaker Robinson, setting forth the various needs of the officers and soldiers, and asking more explicit directions for himself.

2 A person drafted was permitted to pay a fine of ten pounds and escape service.